

6. ODIE PLACE PEDESTRIAN ACCESSWAY

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Corporate Plan Output: Safety Improvements 9.5.90	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the outcome of a public meeting held to discuss the future of the Odie Place pedestrian accessway, to enable the Board to consider further a request made for the accessway to be closed.

BACKGROUND

The Board requested that the meeting be arranged in response to a petition from 16 residents in the Odie Place area. The petition requested that the accessway be closed, citing the amount of graffiti and ongoing vandalism and criminal behaviour associated with the accessway.

The Area Engineer reported to the Board's meeting of 2 April 2001 recommending that the Board support the retention of the accessway. A copy of the report has been circulated separately to Board members.

PUBLIC MEETING

The meeting was held on Thursday 12 July 2001. Approximately 200 invitations were distributed to residents in the Odie Place area. Seven residents attended the meeting. Four other residents communicated their preference for the accessway to be closed prior to the meeting.

The Area Engineer outlined the results of a video camera survey of usage of the accessway and of a survey of 20 local residents, as summarised in the report to the Board on 2 April 2001.

The residents raised concerns about the safety of the accessway and the impact on the Odie Place residents of vandalism and criminal behaviour arising there. The general view expressed was that the accessway is not used heavily because there are no longer shops or a bus stop at its end.

Mr Norm Dewes from Te Amorangi Richmond spoke about the Wellness Centre under construction adjacent to the accessway on the corner of Woodham and Pages Roads. It was confirmed that the planned development over the next two to three years would involve construction of buildings along the fence line with the accessway. The residents considered that the accessway would be unsafe if it was more enclosed and less visible from the road. Mr Dewes undertook to write a letter of support for the closure of the accessway to the Board.

The consensus of residents attending the meeting appeared to be that the accessway should be closed.

It is understood that the City Streets Unit continues to support the retention of the accessway, as recommended to the Board on 2 April 2001.

Recommendation: That the accessway from Odie Place to Pages Road remain open.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the Board recommend to the Council that the accessway from Odie Place to Pages Road be closed and that road closure procedures begin as soon as possible.